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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 27 October 1997, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Busacca ..... (Italy)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 102: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*) (A/52/3, A/52/56, A/52/57-E/1997/4, A/52/60-E/1997/6, A/52/80-E/1997/14, A/52/183, 328 and 351; A/C.3/52/L.2, L.3, L.10, L.11, L.12 and L.13; E/1997/103 and 184)

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.2: International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages, and amendments thereto (A/C.3/52/L.10)

1. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.2 and on the amendments thereto contained in document A/C.3/52/L.10.

2. *The amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.2 contained in document A/C.3/52/L.10 were adopted.*

3. **The Chairman** announced that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

4. *Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.2 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.3: Follow-up to the International Year of the Family

5. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.3 and announced that it had no programme budget implications.

6. *Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.3 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.13: Policies and programmes involving youth

7. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.13 and announced that it had no programme budget implications.

8. **Ms. Newell** (Secretary of the Committee) read out the oral revisions made by the representative of the Netherlands in introducing the draft resolution. In paragraph 7, the phrase "second and third sessions" had been changed to "second session". A new paragraph 8 had been added as follows: "*Notes* with interest that the outcome of the third session of the World Youth Forum will be presented at the World Conference". In the original paragraph 8, the words "to include" had been replaced by the words "to consider including".

9. **Ms. Van Houte** (Netherlands) announced that Côte d'Ivoire, Iceland, Ireland, Jamaica, Panama, the Russian Federation and Ukraine had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

10. **The Chairman** announced that Chad, the Dominican Republic, Israel, Liberia, Mongolia, Senegal and Solomon Islands had also become sponsors of the draft resolution.

11. *Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.13, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Agenda item 103: Crime prevention and criminal justice *(continued)* (A/52/3, 295, 327, 347, 357 and 413, A/52/447-S/1997/775; A/C.3/L.4, L.5, L.6, L.7 and L.8)

Agenda item 104: International drug control *(continued)* (A/52/3, 127, 296, 336 and 413, A/52/447-S/1997/775; E/1997/48)

12. **Mr. Melenevsky** (Ukraine), speaking also on behalf of the Republic of Moldova, said that despite the international community's efforts, crime was spreading throughout the world and its sophisticated manifestations demanded that new strategies be elaborated. Accordingly, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova supported the decision to hold the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which would provide an international forum for reviewing progress and coordinating the activities of Member States. They hoped that the Congress would give the problems of the new or restored democracies special attention, since they were one of the most vulnerable groups of countries.

13. One of the most damaging crimes for countries with economies in transition was corruption, which hindered social, economic and political development and ruined the foundations of democratic institutions and the moral underpinnings of society. Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova therefore welcomed the technical assistance programmes initiated by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division to combat corruption. Even so, international mechanisms like the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials must be set up to combat that crime. Particular importance should be attached to the elaboration of an international convention against bribery and corruption.

14. The international community should give particular attention to the relationship between corruption and organized crime, especially the ways in which corruption was used by organized criminal groups to carry out and conceal their activities. Organized transnational crime, which was a threat to global security and criminal justice, must be dealt with multilaterally and bilaterally by intensifying law enforcement, criminal justice and crime

prevention activities. In that connection, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova emphasized the importance of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime. Terrorism was another challenge to democracy, stability and development. Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova called on the international community to intensify the struggle against terrorism, on the understanding that it could be halted only if all Member States were committed to doing so.

15. States and the public must take joint action to prevent juvenile crime by identifying and eliminating its socio-economic roots and causes. Priority in such measures should be given to social rehabilitation and education rather than punishment. Pursuant to their Constitutions and to the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine had set up a system of bodies and services concerned with the problems of minors and had established special institutions to afford them social protection.

16. In order to increase the efficiency of United Nations activities and to avoid overlapping, it would be advisable to improve coordination between the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Human Rights. Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova highly appreciated the measures taken by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division in Vienna, in particular the elaboration of international projects to combat crime and improve national criminal justice in their respective territories. Along with the need to design new forms of international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, States should implement the provisions of existing international legal instruments in that field. Some United Nations bodies, such as the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division, were contributing to the implementation of those provisions. Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova wished to cooperate fully with those bodies and would welcome any proposal aimed at strengthening their structure and expanding their operational facilities.

17. **Mr. Dlamini** (Swaziland), speaking on behalf of the member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), reviewed the measures taken by the United Nations to combat the illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Drug abuse and illicit trafficking had become one of the major tragedies afflicting humankind, after war and disease. There was no part of the world that was not affected by drug abuse, and children and young people were the most affected. The problem had escalated with the production of new drugs which were growing in popularity. Governments would have to formulate prevention programmes, such as public awareness campaigns and the training of community leaders.

18. It would be recalled that one of the essential functions of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) was to gather, process and disseminate information that could serve as a basis for the adoption and implementation of policies and strategies to address the drug problem. With such a broad mandate, it was discouraging to note that the Programme's budget for the biennium 1996-1997 had been cut by almost $1 million and as such only financed treaty implementation and legal affairs at UNDCP headquarters. The decrease would certainly take a toll on the Programme's effectiveness, and serious consideration should be given to reversing the trend of reducing regular budget resources. SADC was of the view that voluntary contributions were not meant to replace regular budget resources, but to enhance UNDCP operations.

19. SADC appreciated the contribution made by UNDCP towards implementing the Plan of Action of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and welcomed the signing of an agreement between UNDCP and OAU aimed at strengthening the latter's institutional capacity with regard to drug control. At the subregional level, in consultation with the secretariat of SADC, UNDCP had contributed to the implementation of the Plan of Action related to the Protocol on combating illicit drug trafficking in the member States of SADC. In conjunction with the European Commission, UNDCP had undertaken a joint mission to the SADC secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana, which had resulted in an agreement to hold expert group meetings on various topics of concern. In addition, the European Commission had undertaken a fact-finding mission to all SADC countries and had recommended that an expert group meeting for SADC member States should be held. UNDCP had sponsored a workshop of SADC experts in Gaborone in October 1997, at which various issues relating to the above-mentioned Protocol had been discussed, including the operation of the regional drug control programme. Recommendations had also been made on training needs in the legal sector, harmonization of national laws and the development of mutual assistance programmes and extradition arrangements.

20. SADC welcomed the cooperation and assistance received from UNDCP and the international community, which also included six regional projects and one global project in southern Africa. Those projects encompassed incorporation of the drug abuse prevention element into a women's health project, regional training, mobilization of non-governmental organizations, the establishment of a

regional liaison office for east and southern Africa, the development of a drug control capacity in the sea ports of east and southern Africa and a global initiative on prevention of substance abuse. Lastly, SADC looked forward to the holding of the special session of the General Assembly, which would be devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, and felt that the items on the agenda of the special session should be discussed at the highest levels.

21. **Mr. Jayanama** (Thailand) said that Thailand had come a long way in the fight against drugs, from being a producer country to being a transit country. His delegation took note of the *World Drug Report* published by UNDCP, but wished to point out that there was an error in the second paragraph on page 305, where the word "new" in the first line should be deleted. The problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, particularly the consumption side, was of great concern to most countries. His Government had given national priority to the fight against drugs and was adhering firmly to a two-pronged strategy on supply and demand reduction. Much of what Thailand had done was in line with the strategies outlined in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control and the Global Programme of Action.

22. In the area of supply reduction, Thailand had successfully reduced the area of illicit poppy cultivation through, *inter alia*, a crop substitution programme under royal initiative and patronage. The programme involved informing hill tribes of the punitive law against illicit opium poppy cultivation while providing them with an alternative way of earning their living, through the planting of marketable winter fruit and flowers.

23. Although the eradication of opium and its cultivation was very important, demand reduction was much more vital to the success of international drug control. Unless the demand for narcotic drugs was reduced, reducing the supply of narcotics would not decrease world consumption but would simply increase prices on the world market and create further incentives to illegal production. His Government recognized that demand reduction was an important component of drug control and welcomed the declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction. Measures which the Thai Government had taken to reduce demand included the implementation of drug prevention and drug treatment programmes, the expansion of treatment and rehabilitation for drug addicts throughout the country and the promotion of the concept of sports against drugs. In addition, 1997 had been declared the year of the campaign against drugs. Efforts had also been made to strengthen law enforcement. In 1996, narcotics law enforcement authorities had arrested over 150,000 drug offenders involved in more than 140,000 drug cases. Stern measures had been applied to illicit drug traffickers. In 1991, Thailand had enacted a law on measures to suppress narcotics offences. As of February 1997, a total of 250 alleged offenders had been brought to trial under the law and their vast assets had been seized, restrained or confiscated.

24. His Government had also launched measures to control precursors. A precursor and chemicals control committee had been set up in 1993 to formulate national strategy on precursor control and to supervise the work of the agencies concerned. Thailand fully supported the work of UNDCP and the International Narcotics Control Board in the area of precursors.

25. In order to combat the drug problem, cooperation among countries must be strengthened. Thailand committed itself to cooperation with international organizations and various Governments on drug control. In that regard, Thailand supported the special session of the General Assembly on drug control and appreciated the preparatory work of UNDCP. It also fully supported the concept of the subregional approach initiated by UNDCP and was a signatory of the Memorandum of Understanding between Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and UNDCP on international drug control. Thailand had organized meetings of senior officials and ministers of those countries, which had taken place from 9 to 11 July 1997. At the meeting, the revised Subregional Action Plan on Drug Control and three subregional projects had been adopted. Although Thailand had not yet become a party to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, it had already implemented some of the measures stipulated in the Convention. It was in the process of enacting a law against money-laundering, whose final draft would soon be considered by a special Parliamentary committee.

26. Thailand believed that a double standard should not be applied when dealing with the two agents of death and disability, namely weapons and narcotic drugs. Responsibility should be shared by both users and producers. Close cooperation and shared responsibility were the only way to combat narcotic drugs. Lastly, his Government had the firm will to eradicate illicit narcotic drugs, a transboundary issue which no single country, either producer or user, would be able to solve overnight, or by itself. He thanked those Governments and international organizations, particularly UNDCP, which had given assistance to Thailand in fighting illicit drugs.

27. **Ms. Gordon** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the CARICOM countries had comprehensive national policies on crime prevention and criminal justice which embraced activities at the grass-roots level and acknowledged the work of non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations. Those States were experiencing an increase in extraterritorial criminal activity which called for an aggressive international response.

28. The CARICOM States had followed with interest the deliberations on the question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime, and endorsed the related recommendations contained in the draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime" (A/C.3/52/L.4). They also welcomed the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of the resolution on firearm regulation for purposes of crime prevention and public health and safety. They agreed with the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its sixth session that States should adopt efficient measures to combat the smuggling of illegal migrants and sanction those responsible. With regard to the problem of violence against women, the CARICOM States took note of the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council for adoption by the General Assembly concerning crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate such violence. Juvenile justice remained an important item for law enforcement agencies in CARICOM States, and their Governments were addressing the plight of youth as victims and perpetrators of crime, with the related problems of high unemployment, apathy and illicit drug trafficking.

29. The CARICOM States had always expected and demanded the highest standards of behaviour from those who served in public office. At the regional and international levels, the Caribbean States had signed the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, adopted by the Organization of American States in March 1996, and had joined in the consensus adoption of General Assembly resolution 51/59, with the annexed International Code of Conduct for Public Officials and the United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security.

30. At the eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Havana in 1990, the concept of the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment had emerged. At its sixth session, the Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had underlined the crucial role of criminal law in that sphere, particularly in such areas as illegal trafficking in hazardous and nuclear substances and in endangered species. In that connection the CARICOM States wished to underscore the need to respect the environmental heritage of the region, including its waterways and seas.

31. At their eighteenth meeting, held in June and July 1997, the CARICOM heads of Government had approved a criminal justice protection programme for the region. In order to increase international cooperation in the fight against crime, including drug trafficking, the Caribbean/United States Summit held in Barbados in May 1997 had adopted the Bridgetown Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action which contained, *inter alia*, a blueprint for future cooperation and relations between the countries of the Caribbean basin and the United States of America, in collaboration with other bilateral partners and regional and international bodies.

32. The control of illicit drugs continued to occupy a key position on the agendas of the Governments of the CARICOM countries, which were affected by the illicit narcotics trade. Increasingly, drug traffickers were using their territory because of their location on maritime routes between the major production and consumption centres. Regional coordination had sometimes been difficult, as the Caribbean used four major languages and had a variety of judicial systems and a multitude of cultural, religious and political differences. Nevertheless, the CARICOM nations had joined forces to share information and to instigate joint action in the area of drug control, and had intensified their intraregional cooperation with the assistance of UNDCP. The recent establishment of the Caribbean Regional Drug Law Enforcement Training Centre, located in Jamaica, represented a significant achievement in cooperation with UNDCP.

33. Despite those efforts, however, stronger intervention would be required in the region. In May 1996, a high-level strategy meeting had been convened in Barbados with the participation of Caribbean Governments, bilateral donors and UNDCP, which had given a sense of urgency and legitimacy to the need for greater regional cooperation. The Barbados Plan of Action had emerged as the basic document for drug control coordination and cooperation activities for the Caribbean. In February 1997, UNDCP had approved a Caribbean programme to implement most of the recommendations of the Barbados Plan of Action. That programme would be managed by UNDCP in partnership with regional and other donor Governments. The CARICOM countries had established a task force on drugs to assist in the implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action and to determine the regional priorities for demand and supply reduction.

34. The CARICOM countries had been forced to commit significant human and financial resources to the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and to law enforcement matters. Additional resources had been earmarked for dealing with corruption, money laundering and other forms of drug trafficking. Some States had adopted legislation characterizing money laundering as a criminal offence, while others had also taken steps to implement laws on confiscating the proceeds of drug trafficking. The CARICOM States were also continuing their collaboration with the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, located in Trinidad and Tobago, which dealt with problems related to money laundering.

35. Ever increasing levels of violence, fuelled by the nexus between the illicit drug trade and trafficking in small arms, continued to cause great alarm. The Caribbean community reiterated its request to those States which manufactured and sold small arms to devote greater attention to strengthening their domestic controls with a view to preventing the illegal export of such weapons. The CARICOM Governments continued to enhance their cooperation with countries outside the region. Under the auspices of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, the Latin American and Caribbean region had achieved progress in elaborating a hemispheric strategy to combat drug trafficking and related crimes. The section of the Bridgetown Plan of Action dealing with justice and security included measures for strengthening cooperation in the area of drug control and supplemented the recommendations of the Barbados Plan of Action.

36. The CARICOM States fully supported General Assembly resolution 51/64, by which Member States decided to convene a special session on the question of narcotic drugs and welcomed the work accomplished by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the preparatory body for the special session. The CARICOM States recognized the fundamental role of the United Nations in addressing the drug threat at the global level, reaffirmed the lead role of UNDCP and issued an appeal for greater financial support for the Programme. They welcomed the new tendency to refrain from ascribing blame and to increase mutual cooperation instead. The current determination of Member States to deal aggressively with drug trafficking offered an opportunity which all countries should utilize in their efforts to eliminate that scourge, to which all had contributed.

37. **Ms. Wahbi** (Sudan) said that the expansion of crime and the development of its methods were a threat to humanity and the rule of law and subjected future generations to danger. They also impeded economic and social development, threatened the stability and security of States and led to grave human and material losses. Therefore, holding national, regional and international conferences aimed at enhancing cooperation between countries and strengthening the rule of law and systems of justice was one of the most important ways of harmonizing international action to combat all forms of crime. The Sudan had participated in most of those conferences and supported their decisions; her delegation stressed the importance of strengthening the capacity of developing countries to combat the growing threat of the expansion of crime and urged the international community to provide financial and technical resources to those countries and to exchange information with them in order to empower them to take effective action against crime.

38. Crime prevention, drug control and combating international terrorism were among the eight priorities included in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001. Her delegation hoped that the workshop on regulating firearms, to be held in Arusha in November, would promote cooperation among African States in the field of crime prevention. Unfortunately, other regional activities, such as those of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), whose recognized effectiveness in various fields was highlighted in document A/52/327, were not receiving either the financial or human resources they needed. In that context, her delegation, recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/147 and 51/61, requested the provision of additional resources for the biennium 1998-1999 and urged UNDP to revive its programme of assistance to the Institute.

39. Her delegation supported the proposal to draft an international agreement on transnational organized crime; it had signed such international instruments as the agreement relating to the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and international agreements on money laundering and trafficking in human beings and organs. Her Government was implementing the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime and had incorporated in its legislation the provisions of international and bilateral agreements on crimes against the environment and crimes that led to extradition. The Sudan also welcomed the decision to convene, in the year 2000, the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and South Africa's offer to host the Congress.

40. With respect to drugs, her delegation believed that, as a first step, an effort must be made to combat the illegal production of and demand for drugs, both at the national level — through laws against drug abuse and drug trafficking, economic alternatives to production and

educational activities for youth — and at the international level — through the eradication of poverty and the promotion of sustainable development. In addition, the laundering of money obtained from the illicit drug trade and its use in other illegal activities, such as the financing of armed rebel movements that destabilized legitimate Governments, constituted a threat to international peace and security which countries must address with the cooperation of the international community and the competent United Nations bodies.

41. Sudan believed that protecting youth from drugs through the inculcation of religious and family values and enhancing public awareness of the drug problem were the first line of defence against the expansion of drugs. While the problem of drug abuse had not reached alarming proportions in the Sudan, its geographical situation had led to its use as a transit country. In that context, the Sudan had enacted a number of laws, including laws imposing the death penalty for crimes related to illicit drug trafficking. At the international level, the Sudan, which was a party to all the international conventions on drug control, would participate actively in the special session of the General Assembly devoted to that question in 1998.

42. **Ms. Holíková** (Czech Republic) said that her country supported the statement on crime prevention and drug control delivered on behalf of the European Union. It recognized the fundamental importance of the special session which the General Assembly planned to devote to the drug problem and hoped that it would provide an opportunity for many States to reaffirm their determination to fulfil the obligations they had undertaken as parties to the relevant international conventions. The Czech Republic, a State member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, had observed in the framework of the preparations for the special session that new tasks, such as demand reduction, and new problems, such as the increased abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors and money laundering, must be tackled. In that connection, perhaps a consensus could be promoted on amending the relevant international conventions, reviewing the progress in their implementation and adopting specific recommendations reflecting the new circumstances.

43. She found it disturbing that UNDCP was continuously hampered by a lack of funds which, in her view, was caused by a very narrow donor base. The Czech Republic valued the Programme's activities very highly and recognized in particular the assistance of its regional offices and the work of its experts. The Czech Republic supported strengthening the Programme's regional representation, with careful consideration given to all the characteristics of the planned regional office location, such as its distance from each country of the region and the equitable distribution of technical assistance. At the same time, while her delegation welcomed the merging of drug control and crime prevention activities within a single office in Vienna, it felt that it would be very useful to preserve a certain amount of autonomy not only in the area of drug control, in accordance with the relevant conventions, but also in the area of the prevention and treatment of drug addiction. Other institutional reforms, such as the proposal to merge the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into a single functional body, should be considered very carefully in order not to diminish the quality of work in that field.

44. The statement in the World Drug Report that the trade in illicit drugs represented approximately 8 per cent of total international trade and constituted one of the most profitable ways of becoming wealthy, was alarming. The connection between drug abuse and international organized crime had grown considerably closer in the past few years. Her Government had taken legislative measures and had stepped up prevention activities. Within the framework of its association agreement with the European Union, the Czech Republic was examining proposals to modify parts of the penal code concerning drugs for personal use, and to modify the misdemeanour law. The Government's anti-drug policy for the biennium 1998-2000 had just been formulated, and substitute methadone treatment of drug addicts had begun. She congratulated Mr. Pino Arlacchi on his appointment as new Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, one of the United Nations bodies with which the Czech Republic would cooperate on a priority basis in the fight against drugs.

45. **Ms. Andayani** (Indonesia) said that in order to promote a balanced approach to international drug control activities, priority should be given to prevention measures covering education, treatment and rehabilitation. At the national level, a multisectoral and intersectoral approach which was integral to development planning should be taken.

46. Her delegation was encouraged by the activities of UNDCP, in particular its support of developing countries at the regional, subregional and national levels, its assistance to Member States in conducting rapid assessment surveys of the drug situation, and the treatment services that it had made available. Furthermore, the global programme against money-laundering executed jointly by UNDCP and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division would help Member States in the areas of institution-building and training, and would contribute to the preparation of a compendium of national legislation and procedures. UNDCP

was also collaborating with Member States in developing a declaration on the principles of reduction of the illicit demand for drugs, which was to be submitted to the special session of the General Assembly on the question of narcotic drugs for adoption. The special session would give Member States an opportunity to make known their determination to take a coordinated multilateral approach to the problem; it would also be a timely occasion for conducting a review of the international drug control regime, with a view to strengthening the United Nations machinery. Despite the effectiveness of its work, UNDCP was expected to experience a shortfall in income of $10.4 million.

47. Although Indonesia continued to be a transit country for drug trafficking, the consumption of drugs was not yet a significant problem at the national level. The preventive measures taken stressed the education of young people and raising community awareness. Programmes for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug abusers were also implemented. Furthermore, Indonesia was aware of the potential problems that could arise from the link — which had yet to be established in the country — between drug abuse and HIV/AIDS. As part of its cooperation with non-governmental organizations on the issue of drugs, Indonesia had hosted in December 1996, the meeting of the International Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse and had been appointed president for the period 1996-1998.

48. Indonesia, which recognized its obligation to help find a solution to the narcotics problem, had ratified the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. Furthermore, like other countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), it cooperated with the European Union under the draft agreement on precursor and chemical substances, and had played a leading role in the ASEAN programme on enhancement of community-based drug prevention activities.

49. **Ms. Kapalata** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that there was a close relationship between the international problems of crime and drugs; in addressing those two issues it was important to take into account poverty, which bred lawlessness and criminality. Sadly, many developing countries were changing from transit countries for illicit drug trafficking to drug-consuming countries. Massive unemployment and the decline in basic social services were pushing young people towards drugs and crime. Furthermore, the criminal elements who sustained the problem posed a challenge to the government agencies responsible for law enforcement and the administration of justice.

50. With a view, *inter alia*, to bringing the country's laws in line with its obligations under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, her Government had imposed stiffer sentences on those convicted of drug trafficking under its 1996 Act on Psychotropic Substance Abuse. In cooperation with other States members of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADC), her Government had adopted a protocol on drug trafficking covering control of the transborder trade in drugs, the exchange of information on money-laundering, the joint training of law enforcement officers and the harmonization of laws of the various countries to facilitate the prosecution of offenders. Programmes for the rehabilitation and re-education of drug abusers and public awareness-raising campaigns against drug abuse were being initiated. Since they lacked the requisite resources, the SADC countries needed more assistance from the international community in order to be able to carry out those ambitious activities.

51. In the context of the expansion of the operational capacity of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, which her delegation welcomed, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should ensure that more assistance was given to developing countries in their fight against crime and illicit drug trafficking. Her delegation was also pleased that the General Assembly had reaffirmed, in its resolution 51/63, the high priority it assigned to technical cooperation and advisory services in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. The activities carried out in that area by UNDCP and the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) were indeed encouraging. She appreciated the support extended to UNAFRI and called for continued assistance; in view of the Institute's potential to play a critical role in crime prevention and treatment of offenders in Africa, its management and resources should be strengthened. She also expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by UNDCP and the European Union to the SADC secretariat in order to enhance its capacity to deal with illicit drug trafficking. Her delegation looked forward to the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1998 on the question of narcotic drugs.

52. Given the need for an international framework for cooperation in the fight against crime, Tanzania welcomed the convening for the year 2000 of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders as well as South Africa's offer to host the

Congress. It called in particular on the least developed countries to participate fully in the preparatory process and in the Congress itself and hoped that the necessary resources would be made available so that the developing countries could participate in the process of searching for the security and protection of peoples.

53. With regard to the proposal to merge the Centre for International Crime Prevention and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) into a new Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, Tanzania wished to be assured that the merger would not diminish the importance of the functions of either body. The two bodies should maintain their specific mandates, subject to intergovernmental discussions on how the different mandates could be addressed in a single body.

54. **Mr. Giroux** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that Canada noted with interest the Secretary-General's recent reform proposals, which recognized the interrelationship between the United Nations drug and crime control programmes, and wished to express its support for the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen the work of the United Nations in that field.

55. Canada was pleased to report that preparations for the youth event to take place in April 1998 in Banff, Alberta, were progressing rapidly. That UNDCP project, which was supported by Canada, Italy, Norway and Sweden, would bring together young people involved in substance abuse prevention in an attempt to identify the best practices for addressing the drug problem among youth.

56. Canada was deeply concerned at the impact of drugs on societies as well as at the pervasiveness and persistence of the drug problem in every part of the world, the alarming increase in levels of violence, the growing involvement of organized crime and the increased use of new synthetic drugs, particularly by young people. Australia, Canada and New Zealand were committed to addressing the drug problem within their own borders and believed that international cooperation must be strengthened. Pivotal to that effort was the role played by regional and multilateral organizations, including the United Nations and, more specifically, the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the International Narcotics Control Board.

57. The special session which the General Assembly would convene the following June represented an opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of the international community to address the drug problem and to review the existing situation. The preparatory process was focusing on some of the more problematic issues faced by the international community, including, for example, the growing production, trafficking and use of amphetamine-type stimulants, particularly among young people, the strengthening of controls on precursor chemicals without unduly hampering licit trade, improving the ways of combating money-laundering and strengthening international cooperation among legal authorities, reducing the cultivation of illicit crops and providing new and sustainable sources of income. The initiatives taken thus far could provide new impetus for international cooperation.

58. He was also pleased with the progress being made on drafting the declaration on the principles of reduction of illicit demand for drugs, since the latter played a vital role in reducing the adverse consequences of drug abuse. At the same time, Member States should intensify both their search for the best practices and their sharing of information. It was important for States to have a common understanding of the principles of demand reduction and to formalize their spirit of collaboration in a declaration. However, since a declaration could deal only with the broad principles of demand reduction, after the special session, work must continue to compile more comprehensive information on best practices and on programmes which had been successful in different contexts. He urged UNDCP to continue to play a leadership role in disseminating information on best practices and in adopting a balanced approach to drug issues. He also looked forward to the work that would take place within the preparatory process for the special session on alternative development and a political declaration.

59. On the subject of crime prevention and criminal justice, Australia, Canada and New Zealand had long recognized the importance of cooperation, both bilateral and multilateral. They had therefore participated in the development of new international standards to fight against crime which were consistent with human rights and fundamental freedoms. Those were precisely the objectives Canada intended to pursue in the work of the Third Committee, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and other appropriate forums. He welcomed the important work that had been accomplished at the sixth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, particularly the completion of the document on model strategies and practical measures for the elimination of violence against women in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, which he hoped would be adopted by the General Assembly.

60. Australia, Canada and New Zealand recognized that organized transnational crime knew no boundaries and their efforts to combat it would continue to be both domestic and international in scope. He welcomed the decision to organize

a meeting of experts from various countries to elaborate a convention or conventions against organized transnational crime and appreciated the efforts of Poland in that area, especially its offer to host the expert meeting. Canada considered the recommendations adopted by the group of high-level experts on organized transnational crime during the Summit of the Group of 8 Industrialized Countries, held at Lyons, to be a useful tool in the fight against that type of crime and urged Member States to consider the recommendations. Canada continued to believe that extradition was one of the most effective tools to facilitate cooperation in that fight and supported the changes made in the Model Treaty on Extradition. It urged Member States to use the revised model in developing their legislation.

61. Canada was concerned about corruption in international commercial transactions and its effects on the credibility of public officials. It therefore welcomed the important work carried out by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the adoption of the resolution on that topic. Moreover, the strategic management of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, which had been adopted in 1992 by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, had begun to bear fruit during the sixth session of the Commission, since all the measures taken had been extremely useful in organizing the work of the Commission.

62. **Mr. Simón-Padrós** (Argentina) said that Argentina fully supported the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In keeping with that position, it had organized and financed two seminars, one on statistics and the management of information on criminal matters and the other on corruption and bribery, which had been held in Buenos Aires in May and April 1997. The results of those seminars had been used as working documents during the Commission's sixth session.

63. The Commission had made great progress in the organization of its work, with the objective of reconciling mandates, programme activities and resources in a realistic manner. Argentina considered that it was of vital importance to strengthen the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and to continue to develop programmes to provide cooperation and technical assistance to countries.

64. At the Commission's sixth session, timely decisions had been taken on matters of major importance such as action to combat corruption, organized transnational crime, international trafficking in children and violence against women. The draft resolution on violence against women was of the utmost importance as it provided practical guidelines for concrete, easily implemented policies. His delegation had pointed out on numerous occasions that trafficking in children was not a problem of individual countries but, in most cases, a manifestation of organized crime. For that reason, it was necessary to adopt binding and effective international instruments dealing with the various aspects of the problem. In that regard, he supported the idea of a general convention against transnational organized crime, with a special section or protocol dealing specifically with traffic in children.

65. The Commission had taken an important step regarding organized crime by recommending the convening of an inter-sessional meeting of experts to prepare a preliminary draft of a general convention, a measure which Argentina had been advocating since the Naples Conference in 1994. Regarding corruption and bribery in commercial transactions, he felt that the Commission was moving in the right direction and was confident that the Secretary-General would shortly produce a document which could be used in formulating plans and strategies based on the experience of each country. The Commission had made significant progress regarding international cooperation in criminal matters and the amendments to the United Nations Model Treaty on Extradition reflected the latest trends and enjoyed broad consensus. In the area of mutual legal assistance, he was confident that extrabudgetary funds could be found for a meeting of experts to develop new criteria and methods for strengthening international cooperation.

66. While endorsing the views expressed by Paraguay on behalf of the Rio Group regarding the international drug-control campaign, his delegation wished to make a number of observations. Firstly, Argentina was committed to that campaign within a framework of maximum multilateral and bilateral cooperation and coordination, a commitment which was reflected in its accession to United Nations conventions and its conclusion of bilateral agreements. His delegation was convinced that an interdisciplinary and inter-institutional strategy should be used and that in the absence of differences between producer, consumer and transit countries, the response to the problem must be universal. Accordingly, Argentina had adopted a philosophy of total prevention in order to significantly reduce drug use, in accordance with the guidelines of international agencies and forums. That philosophy consisted of a set of policies, programmes and actions to deal with and reduce drug production, distribution, trafficking, trade and money-laundering and to control precursor substances.

67. Argentina had incorporated in its legislation a hemisphere anti-drug strategy, which had been adopted at

the twentieth session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) in Buenos Aires in October 1996. In addition, from 29 September to 3 October 1997, Argentina had hosted the eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) of the Latin America and the Caribbean region, which had reached important conclusions on synthetic drugs, the structure of trafficking organizations, surveillance and undercover operations. Finally, Argentina, fully aware that only the joint and sustained efforts of the international community would enable States to eliminate that evil for present and future generations, reaffirmed its support for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in June 1998.

68. **Mr. Otuyelu** (Nigeria) said he fully supported what had been said by the Executive Director of the Office of Drug Control and Crime Prevention in his introductory statement and expressed appreciation for the work of the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), as the focal point for international action, and for the technical assistance provided to Member States despite the limited resources available.

69. The illicit production, sale, traffic and consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities such as money-laundering, arms trafficking and terrorism were posing increasing threats to the social and cultural systems and the political and economic stability of many countries, developed and developing alike. Advances in technology had made it so much easier for drug dealers to move their wares that law-enforcement agencies all over the world, particularly in developing countries, were finding the problem difficult to deal with. While the major drug dealers were becoming rich, Governments lacked funds and were forced to use their limited resources to combat the drug trade and address problems resulting from drug abuse. International cooperation was therefore a necessity if the young, who were the major victims of the drug trade, were to be saved.

70. The international community's campaign against illicit drugs must be based on a new solidarity which no longer classified countries as producers, transit areas or consumers, as labels tended to divide rather than unite. It was necessary to adopt a holistic approach to reduce production, supply and demand, while according national and international priority to the apprehension of drug traffickers. A concerted international effort was required for crop substitution and other programmes to create opportunities for legal activities to replace illicit production and trafficking of narcotic drugs.

71. States must continue to share their expertise and exchange information on trends in production, trade and consumption of narcotic drugs and money-laundering as a way of improving local capacity and enhancing technical assistance to combat that menace. The newly created Office of Drug Control and Crime Prevention had an important role to play as a focal point for enhanced international cooperation. In that connection, Nigeria, as a member of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, would continue to contribute to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly, which would undoubtedly strengthen the international community's resolve to stem that scourge. Furthermore, adequate funding of the United Nations Drug Control Programme was essential.

72. His Government was aware of the danger which narcotic drugs could pose to the political and economic stability, the social and cultural system, the image of the country and the health of its youth and had strengthened, legally and materially, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), a body to which the Government had given priority since its inception. With the promulgation of decrees on money-laundering and the forfeiture of assets, the Agency had succeeded in substantially reducing drug-trafficking activities in Nigeria and in making a large number of seizures. In addition, the Agency's counselling unit extended assistance to institutions involved in the rehabilitation of drug addicts. The Agency cooperated with its counterparts throughout the world, particularly in the West African Subregion, in monitoring and preventing illicit drug activities. Nigeria had also signed mutual legal assistance agreements with a number of States and was soon to conclude memoranda of understanding with others. Nigeria had also established an office to advise the Head of State on policy matters relating to drugs and money-laundering and to complement the activities of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency.

73. Transnational organized crime was another global menace that benefited from advances in technology and communications, disregarded national borders and undermined the economy and security of States which, like individuals had fallen victim to crime syndicates. The close association between transnational organized crime and terrorism highlighted the need for international action.

74. The financial situation of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) remained critical, and his delegation hoped that its members would make the necessary contribution to give the Institute a new lease of life. Finally, efforts to mobilize resources for anti-drug and anti-crime programmes and to enhance international cooperation for the

exchange of information on criminal activities should be non-partisan.

75. **Ms. Gligorova** (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that the constant increase in the production of, trafficking in and abuse of narcotics was undermining the economy and the social basis of society, and at the same time threatening the political stability, national security and sovereignty of a growing number of countries and seriously endangering the health of the younger generation in particular. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, fully aware that the illicit drug problem represented one of the most serious global challenges, welcomed the holding in 1998 of a special session of the General Assembly dedicated exclusively to drugs, as well as the determination of Member States to tackle the problem effectively. It was imperative for law enforcement services throughout the world to increase their efforts to suppress the phenomenon, especially with regard to the main drug dealers, through the efficient exchange of information, measures against money-laundering, confiscation of property illegally acquired through drug trafficking, the simplification of extradition procedures, and efficient trials for major drug dealers.

76. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was a small landlocked country situated in the central part of the Balkans, one of the most turbulent regions in the world. The country's social system was currently undergoing a fundamental transition; in such a situation drug consumption spread easily, particularly among the younger generation. Since the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was a transit territory, the Government had been focusing attention on that matter for some time. Aware of the fact that the drug phenomenon could be combatted only by combining a number of factors on an ongoing basis, a national programme and strategy for the prevention of drug abuse and the illegal production and trafficking in narcotics had been established. The programme focused on legislative activities, the harmonization of legislation with international legal standards, the creation of an interministerial commission for monitoring and control of activities, the creation of a database system and strategies for prevention, placing priority on information and educating the public about the drug issue.

77. At the international level, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had acceded to international drug control conventions and had incorporated the standards of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances into its new criminal code, as well as into its laws on criminal procedures and narcotics adopted by Parliament. At the regional level, her Government cooperated with European countries in various activities, such as the first southern Balkan conference against organized crime and illegal drug trafficking, held the previous year.

78. Transnational crime threatened social, economic and political institutions, particularly in the countries in transition, as well as their stability and international security. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was applying internationally established norms to combat the increase in crime within its territory. Similarly, in accordance with the recommendations of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Government supported special programmes to prevent crime and combat organized crime, corruption in public administration and money-laundering. Lastly, her delegation expected the Tenth Congress, to be held in the year 2000, to address the problem of international crime, which constituted one of the greatest challenges of our time.

79. **Mr. Levy** (Israel) said that his Government, in response to the problem of drugs, which had not affected the country until the 1980s, had established an anti-drug authority and had begun to collaborate with other Governments and non-governmental organizations with the aim of establishing national policies and expanding intervention services against drug abuse. Despite substantial investments in the war on drugs, drug abuse had increased, since more young people were beginning to use them and the number of adults using drugs had remained steady. The authorities had thus adopted an approach emphasizing a healthy lifestyle for youngsters and other populations at high risk.

80. In addition to increasing prevention efforts, the Government had strengthened law enforcement. In 1991 Parliament had passed a law empowering the authorities to confiscate assets acquired through drug trafficking. The Government was on the point of introducing another law on laundering money acquired from illegal activities, with the aim of monitoring and detecting suspicious transactions in banks and other financial institutions, as well as prosecuting offenders. That legislation would enable Israel to ratify the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. A further proposal worthy of mention concerned amendments to existing legislation on transnational crime, which would give extraterritorial authority to courts so that they could deal with offences committed outside their jurisdiction.

81. Israel was cooperating actively with the international community in that regard. Over the past 10 years it had

signed many bilateral agreements on cooperation and was cooperating with the former Soviet republics in the establishment of drug control agencies. International cooperation was extremely important in reducing and preventing crime which, ironically, had increased with developments in the peace process in the area.

82. His delegation supported the recommendation to strengthen cooperation between the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. Drugs knew no borders. Only through subregional, regional and international cooperation could the scourge be stopped. Israel was ready to do its share and cooperate with other countries in that regard.

83. **Mr. Oussoupov** (Kyrgyzstan) said that the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking showed conclusively that the drug phenomenon was not only a threat to individuals, societies and States, but also to international peace and security. Very often the production of and trafficking in drugs was related to crime and terrorism. Accordingly, his delegation welcomed the efforts by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to turn Vienna into a centre for drug control, crime prevention and measures to combat terrorism.

84. He looked forward to the special session of the General Assembly, which would evaluate progress and agree on future courses of action to halt the manufacture of illicit drugs, prevent smuggling across borders and tackle problems of drug abuse.

85. Kyrgyzstan appreciated the activities of UNDCP in central Asia, especially in Kyrgyzstan, as well as the assistance provided by the European Union in eradicating drugs. With the assistance of UNDCP, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division, a seminar had been organized in Bishkek on drug trafficking in central Asia and problems of security in Europe. A workshop for law enforcement agencies in south-west and central Asia had also been held in Bishkek.

86. The greatest concern for Kyrgyzstan was illicit trafficking in drugs. Before independence, it had been a major producer of opium, but in 1991 cultivation had been banned despite the considerable profits that the country was receiving. However, Kyrgyzstan was now one of the countries most affected by the transit of drugs originating in neighbouring countries. The Khorong-Osh road was the main trafficking route for smuggling opium from Tajikistan and heroin from Afghanistan. Instability in those countries hampered subregional cooperation. Nevertheless, Kyrgyzstan looked to the future with greater optimism as a result of the general agreement signed between the Tajik parties, and urged the Afghan parties to start negotiations to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in that country.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.